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# Linear Algebra and its Applications

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## Preface to the 14th ILAS Conference Proceedings, Shanghai 2007

This special issue of *Linear Algebra and its Applications* contains papers presented at the 14th Conference of the International Linear Algebra Society, held at the Shanghai University, China, July 16–20, 2007. It was the largest ever ILAS conference to date with approximately 300 participants from all continents, half of them being from China.

Invited talks were given by Matej Breš, Man-Duen Choi, Doug Farenick, Erich Kaltofen, Plamen Koev, Amy Langville, Michael Ng, André Ran, Yaokun Wu, and Shufang Xu. Three special talks were given by Hans Schneider (the LAMA lecturer), Michael Ng (SIAM lecturer), and Bryan Shader (Taussky–Todd speaker). In addition to invited lectures, the scientific program included the following mini-symposia: numerical radius (organized by Chi-Kwong Li), Schur complement and applications (organized by Fuzhen Zhang), Perron–Frobenius and  $M$ -matrices (organized by Michael Neumann and Daniel Szyld), matrices and graphs (organized by Leslie Hogben and Bryan Shader), and practical and innovative ways to help students learn linear algebra (organized by Jane Day). There were over 100 contributed talks, many of them given by Chinese linear algebraists.

The co-chairs of the conference were Richard Brualdi and Erxiong Jiang. They were helped by Raymond Chan, Chuanqing Gu, Danny Hershkowitz (ILAS President), Roger Horn and the other members of the scientific committee: Ilse Ipsen, Julio Moro, Peter Šemrl, Jia-Yu Shao, and Pei Yuan Wu. The local organizers were Chuanqin Gu (chair), Xiaomei Jia, Fuping Tan, and Qinwen Wang.

As always there were a lot of excellent plenary and contributed talks demonstrating the depth and breadth of Linear Algebra. The conference was an ideal place for interactions among people with diverse interests. The amazing fact in all these activities was the vitality of our discipline in China demonstrated by the talent and enthusiasm of many young linear algebraists from the host country. The highlight of the conference was the 80th birthday party for Hans Schneider. We believe that the best presents for the birthday were the many talks showing that our research field is developing better than ever. This has been proved by the quality of the results presented as well as by the increasing number of the research groups in linear algebra all around the world. We hope that the present proceedings reflect the depth and diversity of contemporary research in linear algebra.

The sponsors of the conference included: Shanghai University, National Natural Science Foundation of China, Chinese Mathematical Society, Scientific and Technological Committee of Shanghai Municipality, College of Science, Shanghai University, and Shanghai Voicetune Info. Tech. LTD.

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